

**Workforce Poverty Committee  
Status Report  
December 2008**

**Committee Schedule:**

Over the next couple of months the Workforce Committee of the Poverty Initiative will meet to finalize our task items. The meeting schedule is as follows:

**January 13, 2009**

**February 10, 2009**

**March 10, 2009**

**March 31, 2009**

**April 14, 2009**

All meetings will be held from 9:00-10:30 at the Tennessee Technology Center at Nashville unless otherwise noted. The April Meeting will be held if necessary. Meeting notices will be sent separately by Keith Back [keith.back@nashville.gov](mailto:keith.back@nashville.gov) or 862-8890 Ext. 77404

**Status:**

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Workforce Committee conducted its first meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the five (5) action items to pursue; ensure do-ability; and create subcommittees to address each action item. The Committee established three (3) subcommittees based on the original tracks, and five (5) task items to be addressed as follows:

**Tracks/Subcommittee:**

**Track 1/Subcommittee (Chairs Martha Wettemann and Jonathan Norris):** Determine and stabilize employment for low wage workers.

**Action Items to Address:**

- Provide a customer friendly database of statistical information on employment and training opportunities
- Ask Mayor to lead efforts to create pathways to better jobs including such things as: increase wages, benefits and stabilized jobs as well as extended opportunities to utilize training.

**Track 2/Subcommittee (Chair Mary Pat Silveira):** Align job training and life navigation skills, education, and job readiness for employment.

Action Items to Address:

- Develop a catalogue of resources with respect to job training, life navigation skills, education, and job readiness.
- Train and educate - design and provide training, education, and job readiness.

**Track 3/Subcommittee (Chair Stephenie Smith):** Lower barriers and increase cultural sensitivity in the employment process.

Action Item to Address:

- Provide credit and/or incentives to employees to increase cultural sensitivity in the employment process.

The three subcommittees and action items are the basis for the Committees work for the next several months. For the January Meeting, please come prepared to join one of the Subcommittees. Also, be thinking about each of the questions below for the specific subcommittee and task items that you will be working on.

- Who will be the players in carrying out the action?
  - Who will lead it?
  - What organizations will be involved?
- How will you link this action to related, ongoing initiatives?
  - What are the related initiatives in Nashville?
  - How will you connect this action to those initiatives?
- How is this action related to actions of other Action Groups in the Poverty Reduction Initiative?
  - What are the other actions that are related?
  - How will you connect this action to the related others?

*End product of January meeting:*

- All individuals/organizations who need to be involved are identified.
- Strategy exists for informing and including all relevant individuals/organizations.